GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3107
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
AIR TRAVEL BY HAJ PILGRIMS
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft used by Air India/Indian Airlines for to and fro journey for Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during 2005-06;

(b) the amount of fare charged per passenger;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who travelled to Saudi Arabia on subsidised fares;

(d) the number of office bearers/members of the Haj Committee who visited the Saudi Arabia during the said period alongwith details thereof; and

(e) the names of foreign airlines which also deployed aircraft for Haj pilgrims?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Air India leased two B747-300 aircraft and deployed its own A310,B747-300 and B747-400 aircraft for Haj 2006 operation. Indian Airlines also deployed its A300 and A320 aircraft for this purpose.

(b): The subsidised fare of Rs.12,000/- were charged from each pilgrim.

(c): 99,565 (excluding 111 children and 336 infants) pilgrims travelled to Saudi Arbia on subsidised fares.

(d): The Chairman, Vice Chairperson and one member of the Haj Committee of India visited Saudi Arabia during Haj 2006. Besides, a few officials of Haj Committee of India were also deployed for Haj Duty to Saudi Arabia.

(e) Only one foreign airline namely Saudi Arabian Airline deployed its aircraft for Haj pilgrims.